

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendments to the claims are of formal nature, and do not add new matter. Claims 119-124 are pending in this application and are rejected on various grounds. Claims 122 and 124 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 119 has been amended for clarity and to recite "isolated antibody". The rejections to the presently pending claims are respectfully traversed.

Formal Matters

The title of the application was objected to. The title of the invention has been amended to better describe the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 119-124 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner objects to Claim 119 since it does not sufficiently distinguish over antibodies as they exist naturally.

The pending claims have been amended to recite "isolated" antibodies to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

A. Claims 122 and 124 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of this rejection and solely in the interest of expedited prosecution in this case, Applicants have canceled Claims 122 and 124 and have amended Claim 119 to recite "specifically binds."

Applicants submit that the term "specific binding" or "specifically binds" has a well established meaning, and is understood by those skilled in the art to mean that the antibody binds to a particular polypeptide, and does not significantly bind to another polypeptide. Since claim terms should be given their ordinary, art-recognized meaning, the present rejection is believed to be misplaced, and should be withdrawn.

Art

Since Applicants are entitled to at least the effective priority date of **March 30, 2000** Isogai *et al.* (dated 2003) is not prior art.

The present application is believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-1641**, referencing Attorney's Docket No. **39780-2730 P1C20**.

Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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